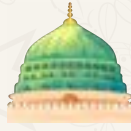


USWATUN HASANAH

SUMMARY TAKEN FROM
'THE INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF THE HOLY QURAN' BY HAZRAT MUSLEH MAUD (RA)



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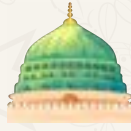
1

PURITY OF MIND AND CLEANLINESS OF BODY

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) kept speech pure and did not use the name of God casually or fill speech with unnecessary oaths. The Holy Prophet (sa) cared deeply for personal cleanliness: brushing the teeth several times each day, washing the hands before and after meals, and rinsing the mouth after cooked food. The Holy Prophet (sa) also taught that mosques should be clean and fresh, that people should not join a congregation after eating food with an offensive smell, that streets should be kept clear, and that water used by people should not be polluted.

Key clue: The Holy Prophet (sa) personally removed harmful objects from roads and taught that helping to keep streets and roads clear earns spiritual merit.



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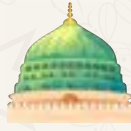
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SIMPLE LIFE

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) lived simply in food, clothing, bedding and home. The Holy Prophet (sa) never complained about badly prepared food: when it could be eaten, the Holy Prophet (sa) ate it so that the cook would not be disappointed; when it could not be eaten, the Holy Prophet (sa) simply did not eat it. Food was shared fairly, including an occasion when dates were divided so that each person received seven. The Holy Prophet (sa) did not eat to excess, avoided feasting where hungry people could watch, and did not go to another person's meal without an invitation. Dress, bedding and the home were all plain and modest.

Key clue: When a cup of milk arrived in a house with no other food, the Holy Prophet (sa) told Abu Hurayrah (ra) to bring the other hungry people in the mosque. All six guests drank their fill before Abu Hurayrah (ra) drank, and there was still enough milk for Abu Hurayrah (ra) and then the Holy Prophet (sa).



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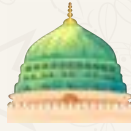
RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Summary:

Love for, devotion to and trust in God shaped every part of the Holy Prophet (sa)'s life. The Holy Prophet (sa) spent much of the night in worship, sometimes standing so long that the feet became swollen, and explained that greater favours from God should lead to greater gratitude. The Holy Prophet (sa) waited for divine permission before leaving Mecca and did not leave with the Companions for Abyssinia without that permission. The Holy Prophet (sa) wept while listening to

Quranic verses about the responsibilities of a Prophet, prayed in congregation even during severe illness when possible, rejected all forms of idolatry and superstition, and taught that the sun, moon, rain and other natural events follow divine laws rather than the life or death of people. The Holy Prophet (sa) also taught complete humility: entry into Paradise depends on God's Grace and Mercy, not on anyone's deeds alone.

Key clue: When an enemy stood over the Holy Prophet (sa) with a drawn sword and asked who could save the Holy Prophet (sa), the calm answer was: "Allah."



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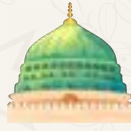
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DISAPPROVAL OF PENANCE

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) did not approve of worship that becomes a burden, a punishment, or a display of false holiness. True worship means using the abilities God has given in the right and beneficial way, not ruining or refusing those abilities. The Holy Prophet (sa) taught that people should choose the easier of two lawful options, but should keep far away from anything doubtful or sinful. The goal was real virtue and God's pleasure, not impressing other people by acting unusually strict.

Key clue: When Zaynab (ra) used a rope to support herself after becoming tired in prayer, the Holy Prophet (sa) ordered the rope to be removed and taught that prayer should continue only while a person feels easy and cheerful; when tired, the person should sit down.



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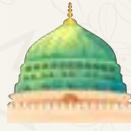
5

ATTITUDE TOWARDS WIVES

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) was kind, fair and patient with his wives. When one of the wives was upset, the Holy Prophet (sa) did not react harshly. On one occasion, the Holy Prophet (sa) gently told Ayesha (ra) that the change in the way she referred to God showed when she was pleased and when she was not; Ayesha (ra) laughed and agreed. The Holy Prophet (sa) also remained deeply grateful to Khadijah (ra) after her death, respected Khadijah (ra)'s friends, and often spoke about Khadijah (ra)'s sacrifices and virtues.

Key clue: When Zaynab (ra) sent a necklace that had belonged to Khadijah (ra) as ransom for Zaynab (ra)'s husband, the Holy Prophet (sa) was moved by the memory and asked the Companions whether they would agree to return the necklace to Zaynab (ra). They gladly agreed.



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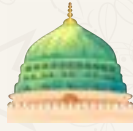
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HIGH MORAL QUALITIES - PATIENCE IN PERSONAL LOSS

Summary:

From childhood, the Holy Prophet (sa) faced hardship with dignity. The Holy Prophet (sa) was born without a father, lost the mother while still a child, and lost the grandfather at eight. In the home of Abu Talib, the Holy Prophet (sa) was sometimes left out when food was shared among the cousins, yet sat quietly without sulking, jealousy or complaint. Later, the Holy Prophet (sa) took responsibility for the care and upbringing of Ali (ra) and Ja'far (ra). Throughout life, the Holy Prophet (sa) also bore the loss of children, wives and Khadijah (ra) without allowing private sorrow to spoil a cheerful and kind manner towards others.

Key clue: When a woman mourning a child's grave said that the Holy Prophet (sa) could not understand her pain, the Holy Prophet (sa) replied that his loss had not been of one child but of seven, then passed on without making personal sorrow the centre of attention.



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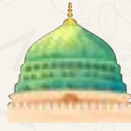
7

SELF-CONTROL

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) remained calm even when people were rude, demanding or disrespectful. A Jewish visitor repeatedly addressed the Holy Prophet (sa) by the personal name “Muhammad” rather than by a respectful title. The Holy Prophet (sa) continued the discussion patiently and smiled when the visitor insisted on using the name given by the parents. The Holy Prophet (sa) also listened to people who stopped on the road with their needs, did not withdraw a hand first when someone held it for a long time, and helped people whenever possible. At the same time, the Holy Prophet (sa) taught people not to become dependent on asking others for relief.

Key clue: A Companion who had promised never to make a request even picked up a fallen whip personally in battle, rather than let another person pick it up after being asked.



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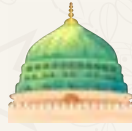
8

JUSTICE AND FAIR DEALING

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) used one standard of justice for everyone, whether rich or poor, relative or stranger. When a respected family feared disgrace because a young woman from that family had committed theft, the Holy Prophet (sa) rejected intercession and said that even Fatimah (ra) (his daughter) would face the proper penalty if she committed an offence. When the hands of Abbas, the uncle of the Holy Prophet (sa), were tightened securely with rope, the Holy Prophet (sa) insisted that either every prisoner's bonds should be loosened or Abbas's bonds should be tightened as well. The Holy Prophet (sa) also reprimanded Muslim scouts for an attack during the Sacred Month instead of excusing them by pointing to the wrongdoing of the Meccans, and asked Abu Bakr (ra) not to hurt a Jewish person's feelings by comparing the Holy Prophet (sa) with Moses (as) in that person's presence.

Key clue: "The Prophet (sa)'s uncle 'Abbas became a prisoner in the Battle of Badr, he was, like other prisoners, tied up with a rope to prevent his escape."



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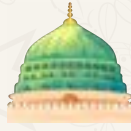
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REGARD FOR THE POOR

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) gave poor people honour, care and hope. After comparing a rich, well-connected man with a poor man whom society ignored, the Holy Prophet (sa) said that the poor man was worth more than enough gold to fill the whole universe. When a poor woman who cleaned the mosque died, the Holy Prophet (sa) asked why no one had informed the Holy Prophet (sa), went to the grave and prayed for her. The Holy Prophet (sa) also corrected Abu Bakr (ra) when Abu Bakr (ra) may have hurt the feelings of poor former slaves, praised a poor mother who shared one date between two daughters, and taught that wealth, standing and power are gained through the poor as well.

Key clue: The Holy Prophet (sa) playfully encouraged a dusty labourer who felt worthless by saying, "You are of great worth in the eyes of God."



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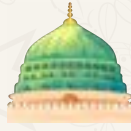
10

SAFEGUARDING THE INTERESTS OF THE POOR

Summary:

When wealth and gifts came to the Holy Prophet (sa), the Holy Prophet (sa) distributed them quickly among people in need. When Fatimah (ra) asked for a servant because grinding grain had made her hands painful, the Holy Prophet (sa) gave a spiritual instruction that was described as more valuable than a servant: praising God thirty-three times, declaring God's perfection thirty-three times, and declaring God's greatness thirty-four times before sleep. The Holy Prophet (sa) also hurried home after prayer to find one lost coin and give it to a needy person, fearing responsibility before God if it remained undistributed. To protect the poor's share, the Holy Prophet (sa) forbade charity for his descendants.

Key clue: When the young Imam Hasan (ra) put a charity date into the mouth, the Holy Prophet (sa) removed it and said that it belonged to the poor among God's creatures.



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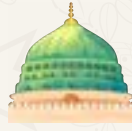
11

TREATMENT OF SLAVES

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) repeatedly taught that slaves must be treated with dignity, kindness and fairness. An owner who beat or abused a slave was told that freeing the slave was the only reparation. Slaves should be asked only to do work within their ability, and the owner should help when a task is difficult so that the slave does not feel humiliated. During travel, an owner should share a mount with a slave. The Holy Prophet (sa) also taught that a slave should eat the same type of food and wear the same type of clothes as the owner. A servant who prepares food should be invited to eat with the family or at least given a portion because the servant has worked on it.

Key clue: "They are your brethren and the source of your power."



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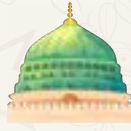
12

TREATMENT OF WOMEN

Summary:

Islam gave women clear rights of inheritance and ownership of property. The Holy Prophet (sa) worked to establish women's dignity, fair treatment and safety. The wives of the Holy Prophet (sa) were allowed to offer counsel. During prayer, the Holy Prophet (sa) shortened the service after hearing a child cry, thinking that the child's mother might be worried. When women travelled with the group, the Holy Prophet (sa) told the men to move gently, saying, "Take care of glass!" During a battle, after falling from a horse, the Holy Prophet (sa) told a Companion to help the women before helping the Holy Prophet (sa). The Holy Prophet (sa) also stressed the education and careful upbringing of daughters, told men not to abuse or expel wives, and advised travellers not to return home suddenly at night without notice.

Key clue: "Feed her with that which God bestows upon you ... clothe her ... and do not chastise her nor abuse her nor put her out of your house."



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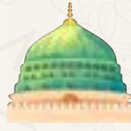
13

ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE DEAD

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) taught people to make a will so that family members would face as little difficulty as possible after a death. The Holy Prophet (sa) also taught that people should not speak badly of someone who has died; instead, good qualities should be remembered so that people may pray for that person. Debts were treated very seriously. The Holy Prophet (sa) insisted that a deceased person's debts should be paid before burial, sometimes paid them personally, and encouraged relatives or others to discharge them when necessary.

Key clue: The Holy Prophet (sa) would not lead the funeral prayer for a deceased person until the person's liabilities had been discharged.



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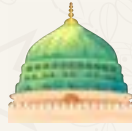
14

TREATMENT OF NEIGHBOURS

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) taught that neighbours have strong rights. The angel Gabriel reminded the Holy Prophet (sa) so often about kindness to neighbours that the Holy Prophet (sa) thought neighbours might even be included among the prescribed heirs. The Holy Prophet (sa) asked Abu Dharr (ra) to add more water to broth so that neighbours could share it. A true believer should make neighbours feel safe from harm and should share even a small amount of food. The Holy Prophet (sa) also told people not to object when neighbours use a wall in a way that causes no harm.

Key clue: "He whose neighbour is not secure against injury and ill-treatment at his hands" was described as not being a believer.



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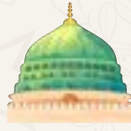
15

TREATMENT OF RELATIVES

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) strongly taught kindness to parents and relatives. When asked who deserves the best treatment, the answer was “your mother” three times, then “your father”, then nearer and more distant relatives. The Holy Prophet (sa) told Abu Bakr (ra) that he would have gone to meet Abu Bakr (ra)'s elderly father rather than making the father come. Charity should include poor relatives: when Abu Talhah (ra) offered an orchard for charity, the Holy Prophet (sa) asked that it be divided among poor relatives. A man eager for Hijrat and holy war was told to return and serve both living parents. The Holy Prophet (sa) taught that kindness also extends to non-Muslim relatives, friends of one's parents, and people connected to loved ones such as Khadijah (ra)'s friends.

Key clue: The Holy Prophet (sa) called it one of the highest virtues for a person to honour the friends of a father.



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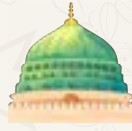
16

KEEPING GOOD COMPANY

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) preferred the company of virtuous people and corrected a Companion's weakness gently and privately. The Holy Prophet (sa) taught that a person becomes affected by the company kept. Good company is like carrying musk: a person may use it, gain from selling it, or at least enjoy its scent. Bad company is like working at a charcoal furnace: a spark may burn the clothes or the fumes may cause harm. The lesson is to choose friends carefully and spend time with people whose conduct helps faith and character.

Key clue: "A man's character takes on the colour of the company he keeps."



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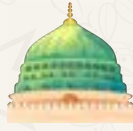
17

SAFEGUARDING PEOPLE'S FAITH

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) was careful to prevent even small misunderstandings that could disturb another person's faith. One night Safiyyah (ra), the wife of the Holy Prophet (sa), visited the mosque. When it became dark, the Holy Prophet (sa) escorted Safiyyah (ra) home. Two men passed on the way, and the Holy Prophet (sa) stopped them and made it clear that the woman was Safiyyah (ra), his wife. The two men said they would never think badly of the Holy Prophet (sa), but the Holy Prophet (sa) explained that evil thoughts can enter a person quickly and should be prevented before they grow.

Key clue: "See, this is Safiyyah, my wife."



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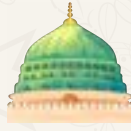
18

OVERLOOKING FAULTS OF OTHERS

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) taught people to conceal the faults of others and to repent privately rather than boast about wrong actions. A person who reveals personal wrongdoing proudly can lose the sense of shame and repentance. When a man repeatedly made a public confession of a serious sin, the Holy Prophet (sa) initially turned away, showing that public confession was not the right remedy. Only after the confession was repeated did legal action become necessary; when the man later tried to run away, the Holy Prophet (sa) said that the people should not have chased the man, because running away could mean that the confession was being withdrawn. The Holy Prophet (sa) also told Usamah (ra) not to judge a person's inner intention after the person had declared faith, and encouraged Abu Bakr (ra) to continue supporting a needy person who had behaved badly.

Key clue: When Usamah (ra) argued that a declaration of faith was only a trick, the Holy Prophet (sa) asked: "Did you peep into his heart to see whether he was telling the truth or not?"



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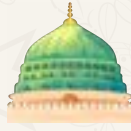
19

PATIENCE IN ADVERSITY

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) taught that the life of a true believer is full of good: when success comes, the believer is grateful, and when pain or hardship comes, the believer is patient. Both responses bring a person closer to God's favour. During an epidemic, the Holy Prophet (sa) did not approve of people leaving an affected town and carrying disease into other places. There is a spiritual reward for someone who stays in an affected place, does not spread infection, and dies during the epidemic.

Key clue: "If he meets with success he is grateful to God ... if he suffers pain or tribulation he endures it with patience."



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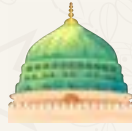
20

MUTUAL COOPERATION

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) taught two linked habits: do not interfere in matters that do not concern you, but be ready to cooperate when someone truly needs help. If a person could not pay a required sum of money, neighbours, fellow citizens or fellow tribespeople were expected to help by collecting contributions. The relatives of people who stayed near the Holy Prophet (sa) to serve Islam were encouraged to provide for their modest needs. The Holy Prophet (sa) also taught that a working brother could receive blessings because another brother was free to serve the Faith.

Key clue: At a campsite, the Holy Prophet (sa) refused to remain without a task and went to collect firewood, saying it was the Holy Prophet (sa)'s duty to do a share of the work.



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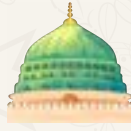
21

TRUTHFULNESS

Summary:

Before claiming prophethood, the Holy Prophet (sa) was already known as “The Trusty” and “The True”. The Holy Prophet (sa) taught that truth is the base of all virtue, goodness and right conduct. Truthfulness also means clear and open dealing. When Umar (ra) suggested that a small eye signal from the Holy Prophet (sa) would have been enough to order the death of a prisoner, the Holy Prophet (sa) refused the idea because a Prophet does not give a hidden signal while speaking pleasantly. A man who struggled with lying and two other serious wrongs was told to give up lying first. Keeping that promise gradually helped the man leave the other wrongs as well.

Key clue: “A Prophet does not act equivocally.”



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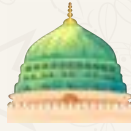
22

AVOIDING INQUISITIVENESS AND SUSPICION

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) warned people not to think badly of others, spy into their affairs, use insulting names, envy one another or hold hatred in the heart. Muslims should regard one another as brothers and sisters in faith, not look down on others because of lack of wealth, learning or status, and stand by one another in distress. Life, honour and property are to be treated as sacred. The lesson is that a person should not judge another person by appearance alone because God sees what is in the heart.

Key clue: "God does not regard your bodies nor your countenances nor your external actions but looks into your hearts."



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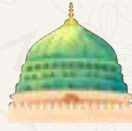
23

FRANK AND STRAIGHTFORWARD DEALING

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) wanted all buying and selling to be honest and free from tricks. In a market, the Holy Prophet (sa) put a hand into a pile of corn and found that the inside was wet even though the top looked dry. The seller said rain had damaged part of it. The Holy Prophet (sa) said the wet part should have been left on top so buyers could see the real condition. The Holy Prophet (sa) also told buyers to inspect what they wanted to purchase, forbade people from interrupting another person's ongoing negotiation, prohibited hoarding goods to wait for a price rise, and wanted markets to be properly supplied.

Key clue: "He who deals unfairly with others can never become a useful member of society."



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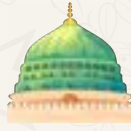
24

REJECTING PESSIMISM

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) rejected pessimism because spreading hopelessness discourages people and stops progress. At the same time, the Holy Prophet (sa) warned against pride and boastfulness. The right path is between these two extremes: work hard, move forward, seek the welfare and progress of the community, and trust that God will bless sincere effort with the best results. Success should not make a person proud, and hardship should not make a person hopeless.

Key clue: Muslims should work diligently “in the trust that God would bless their efforts with the best results.”



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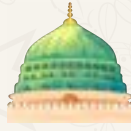
25

KINDNESS TO ANIMALS

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) warned against cruelty to animals and taught that kindness to them matters before God. A woman was once punished for starving a cat and another woman was forgiven after drawing water from a deep well for a thirsty dog. During a journey, Companions (ra) took two young doves from a nest; when the mother bird returned and flew around in distress, the Holy Prophet (sa) ordered the young birds to be returned. The Holy Prophet (sa) also rebuked people for setting fire to an anthill. He also said that animals should not be branded on the face because the face is sensitive; if branding is needed, it should be on the haunches.

Key clue: "If any one of you has caught its young ones he must release them at once to comfort it."



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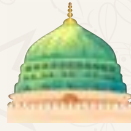
26

TOLERANCE IN RELIGIOUS MATTERS

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) set a high standard of religious tolerance. A Christian delegation from Najran, including church leaders, came to Medina for a long religious discussion in the mosque. When the time came for the delegation's own religious service, the leader asked permission to leave the mosque and pray elsewhere. The Holy Prophet (sa) said there was no need to leave because the mosque was itself a place devoted to the worship of God, and the delegation could hold the service there.

Key clue: The Christian delegation from Najran was allowed to hold the religious service inside the mosque.



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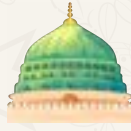
27

BRAVERY

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) showed courage by acting quickly when danger was feared. When rumours spread in Medina that the Romans might be preparing an invasion, Muslims were already watchful at night. One night an uproar was heard from the desert. Some Muslims gathered and waited for direction, but the Holy Prophet (sa) had already gone alone on horseback towards the sound to discover whether there was a real threat. The Holy Prophet (sa) then returned and reassured everyone that there was no cause for alarm and that they could go home and sleep.

Key clue: The Holy Prophet (sa) did not wait for people to gather before riding out to investigate the alarm.



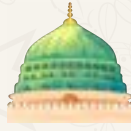
28

CONSIDERATION TOWARDS THE UNCULTURED

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) was especially patient with people who had not yet learned how to behave properly. A desert dweller who had only recently accepted Islam was sitting in the mosque, then went to a corner and began to pass water there. Some Companions moved to stop the man. The Holy Prophet (sa) restrained them, explaining that interrupting the man would cause inconvenience and might cause injury. The Holy Prophet (sa) told the Companions to leave the man alone and clean the place afterwards. The lesson is to correct people with wisdom and kindness, especially when lack of knowledge is the reason for a mistake.

Key clue: The Holy Prophet (sa) told the Companions to clean the place later rather than embarrass or harm the new Muslim.



USWATUN HASANAH

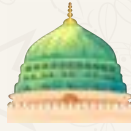
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FULFILLING COVENANTS

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) was very careful to honour agreements and the responsibilities attached to a person's position. An envoy came on an official mission, remained with the Holy Prophet (sa) for several days, and became convinced that Islam was true. The envoy wanted to accept Islam immediately. The Holy Prophet (sa) said this would not be proper while the envoy remained the representative of a government. The envoy had to return to the government without taking a new allegiance. The Holy Prophet (sa) explained that the envoy could return later as free individuals and accept Islam then.

Key clue: A representative must complete the duty of representation before making a new allegiance.



USWATUN HASANAH

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DEFERENCE TOWARDS SERVANTS OF HUMANITY

Summary:

The Holy Prophet (sa) showed special respect to people who spent their time and wealth serving others. The tribe Banu Ta'iyy fought against the Muslims, was defeated, and some members were taken prisoner. One prisoner was the daughter of Hatim Ta'iyy, a man whose generosity was famous among the Arabs. When the daughter told the Holy Prophet (sa) who the father was, the Holy Prophet (sa) treated the daughter with great consideration. Because of the daughter's intercession, the Holy Prophet (sa) remitted all the penalties imposed on the people for their aggression.

Key clue: The Holy Prophet (sa) honoured the reputation of Hatim Ta'iyy for generosity by showing consideration to the daughter and the people.